

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05545 221843Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 OMB-01
EURE-00 DHA-02 /069 W
-----221845Z 076402 /44

O R 221755Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6609
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5545

USIA FOR IEU, IOP, IBS/PS, IPS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US
SUBJ: LENIN'S BIRTHDAY: ZIMYANIN DELIVERS UNCOMPROMISING SPEECH

REF: 76 MOSCOW 6361

1. BEGIN INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. LENIN DAY CELEBRATIONS
APRIL 22 FEATURED HARD-HITTING, UNCOMPROMISING AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05545 221843Z

RHETORICALLY AGGRESSIVE SPEECH BY CC SECRETARY M.V.
ZIMYANIN. IN CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR'S EFFORT BY Y.V.
ANDROPOV, WHICH WAS BY COMPARISON MILD AND REASONED, ZIMYANIN
TOOK HARSH, AT TIMES SHRILL, IDEOLOGICAL LINE ON VIRTUALLY
ALL SUBJECTS. FOREIGN POLICY TOPICS OF MAJOR INTEREST WERE CRITICAL
REFERENCES TO CHINA AND U.S. ZIMYANIN'S COMMENTS ON THE FORMER
PROMPTED THE PRC CHARGE TO WALK OUT AS LAST YEAR. REGARDING

LATTER, ZIMYANIN ECHOED HARD LINE AS WE HAVE RECENTLY SEEN IN SOVIET MEDIA ON U.S. DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS, LABELING THEM "ONESIDED" AND "UNSOUND". HE TOOK EQUALLY HARD LINE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND "INTERFERENCE IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS," WITHOUT, HOWEVER, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING U.S. BREZHNEV SEEMED TO BE IN RELATIVELY GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION. SUSLOV WAS PRESENT; MAZUROV AND KIRILENKO WERE NOT. ZIMYANIN'S SELECTION AS THIS YEARS ORATOR IS AN OBVIOUS BOOST TO HIS LEADERSHIP STANDING. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

2. CHINA: ZIMYANIN CLAIMED THAT "UNFORTUNATELY" THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE RECENTLY IN THE WELL-KNOWN POSITION OF CHINA. PEKING WAS STILL ENGAGED IN INCREASING INTERNATIONAL TENSION, ALLYING ITSELF WITH THE MOST REACTIONARY FORCES, AND CONDUCTING AN ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN WHICH WENT AGAINST THE VITAL INTEREST OF ALL PEOPLES, INCLUDING THE INTERESTS OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE. DURING ZIMYANIN'S REMARKS ON CHINA, THE CHINESE CHARGE ROSE AND WALKED OUT. (POSSIBLY IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS, SOVIETS ALLOWED NO FOREIGN CAMERAS INTO THE HALL, IN CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR WHEN WESTERN NEWSMEN WERE ALLOWED TO PHOTOGRAPH THE EVENT.) ZIMYANIN'S REMARKS ON CHINA WERE INTERRUPTED BY APPLAUSE WHICH DIED BUT THEN RESURGED, IN WHAT WAS CLEARLY THE MOST SPONTANEOUS OUTBURST OF THE EVENING.

3. U.S. UNLIKE LAST YEAR, WHEN ANDROPOV MENTIONED CRITICALLY ONLY CHINA BY NAME, ZIMYANIN HAD HARSH WORDS FOR THE U.S. IN CONTEXT OF SALT. HE NOTED THAT POSITIVE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 05545 221843Z

STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN IN BUILDING U.S.- SOVIET RELATIONS, BUT PRESENT PROBLEMS WERE NOT DUE TO SOVIET UNION BUT RATHER TO OPPONENTS OF DETENTE. THE U.S. SALT PROPOSALS WERE AN ATTEMPT TO TAKE "ONESIDED" ADVANTAGE AND CONSTITUTED A REVISION OF VLADIVOSTOK. THEY WERE, HE CLAIMED, "UNSOUND". FURTHER PROGRESS IN LIMITING ARMS AND IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN GENERAL REQUIRE POLITICAL REALISM, TRUE EQUALITY, AND NON-INTERFERENCE. CONCLUDING HIS REMARKS ON SALT, ZIMYANIN STATED THAT GIVEN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE APPROACH BY "OUR AMERICAN PARTNERS", THE TALKS CAN AND MUST PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS. ZIMYANIN WAS PARTICULARLY STRIDENT IN HIS COMMENTS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN. HE ASSERTED THE WEST (NO SPECIFIC COUNTRIES WERE NAMED IN THIS CONTEXT) WAS CARRYING ON THE CAMPAIGN TO COVER ITS OWN INTERNAL CRISIS. HE STRUCK OUT HARD AT THE "PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE" AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

WHICH WRE BEING CONDUCTED WITH "OFFICIAL" ENCOURAGEMENT" FROM ANTI-SOVIET CENTERS IN THE WEST. SUCH ACTIVITY IS, HE DECLARED, INCOMPATIBLE WITH NORMAL INTER-STATE RELATIONS AND WITH THE SPIRIT OF DETENTE.

5. LEADERSHIP INDICATORS. ALL OF THE MOSCOW-BAXED SENIOR LEADERS WERE PRESENT EXCEPT MAZUROV AND KIRILENKO. THE LATTER WAS ABSENT LAST YEAR AS WELL, AND PRESUMABLY IS ON VACATION. THE FORMER HAS BEEN OUT OF THE PUBLIC EYE SINCE EARLY FEBRUARY, AND MAY BE ILL. SUSLOV, INACTIVE SINCE MID-DECEMBER DID NOT SHOW SIGNS OF ILL HEALTH, AT LEAST JUDGING FROM THE FEW TV SHOTS OF HIM DURING ZIMYANIN'S SPEECH.

6. LAST YEAR'S PROTOCOL ORDER WAS FOLLOWED IN THE SEATING ORDER OF THE FULL POLITBURO MEMBERS. THERE WAS A SLIGHT AND POSSIBLY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE SEATING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 05545 221843Z

ORDER OF THE CC SECRETARIES. THE USUAL ORDER IS KAPITONOV, DOLGIKH, KATUSHEV, CHERNENKO, ZIMYANIN AND RYABOV. ON THIS OCCASION, CHERNENKO IN EFFECT MOVED UP, SITTING NEXT TO CC SECRETARY KAPITONOV (THE ORDER THUS BEING KAPITONOV, CHERNENKO, DOLGIKH, KATUSHEV, ZIMYANIN AND RYABOV).

7. WE DOUBT THAT GREAT SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE FACT THAT JUNIOR SECRETARIAT MEMBER ZIMYANIN WAS CHOSEN TO DO THE HONORS THIS YEAR. THE LENIN BIRTHDAY SPEECH IS ALWAYS IDEOLOGICALLY ORIENTED (DEALING WITH THE HERITAGE OF LENIN'S IDEAS, ETC.), AND ZIMYANIN CLEARLY HAS MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR IDEOLOGICAL MATTERS ON THE SECRETARIAT. AND WE NOTE THAT IN 1971 RELATIVE SECRETARIAT NEWCOMER KATUSHEV DELIVERED THE ADDRESS. STILL, ZIMYANIN PERFORMED WITH FLAIR AND VIGOR, IN MARKED CONTRAST TO BREZHNEV'S RECENT PERFORMANCES, AND ZIMYANIN'S STANDING IN THE LEADERSHIP WAS CERTAINLY BOOSTED BY HIS GIVING THE 1977 BIRTHDAY SPEECH.

8. BREZHNEV, BOTH IN PERSON AND ON TV, LOOKED TO BE IN RELATIVELY GOOD SHAPE. FACIAL SWELLING DID NOT APPEAR TO BE PRONOUNCED, AND MUCH OF THE GREY HAIR HAD BEEN DARKENED.

9. COMMENT. THE LENIN BIRTHDAY SPEECH IS TRADITIONALLY MORE OF AN IDEOLOGICAL SET PIECE THAN A VEHICLE FOR ANNOUNCING POLICY INNOVATIONS. NONETHELESS, AS THE FIRST MAJOR SCHEDULED LEADERSHIP SPEECH SINCE THE VANCE VISIT, IT DID PROVIDE THE SOVIETS WITH AN AUTHORITATIVE FORUM FOR SIGNALING ITS CURRENT FOREIGN POLICY LINE. PARTICULARLY IN CONTRAST TO THE MILDLY-WORDED ANDROPOV SPEECH OF LAST YEAR, THE TONE

AND SUBSTANCE OF ZIMYANIN'S REMARKS ON U.S.-SOVIET
RELATIONS WAS STRONG, AND UNCOMPROMISING.
TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, PARTY LEADERS, MEETINGS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW05545
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770140-1137
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770429/aaaaayqp.tel
Line Count: 172
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b61e8ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 6361
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2722564
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LENIN'S BIRTHDAY: ZIMYANIN DELIVERS UNCOMPROMISING SPEECH
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US, (ZIMYANIN, M V)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b61e8ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009